among sizeable section of Muslim community;

(b) if so, what are the details of the organisation and functioning of this centre specially for cultural and educational advancement of Muslims of India; and

(c) by when this project is likely to begin its work?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) had mooted a proposal to set up a Centre for Cultural and Educational Advancement of Muslims of India to take up activities relating to education of women, vacational training programme, entrepreneurship training etc., for the advancement of Muslims in India. The proposal was considered by an Expert Committee, constituted by the Government and it was decided that the Centre be renamed as the Centre of Coordination for Cultural and Educational Advancement of Muslims of India. The Report of the Committee was approved by the Government except for the recommendations in respect of the following two Schemes :—

(i) Creation of Information Data Base; and

(ii) Documentation of Culture.

AMU was requested to approach the U. G. C. for financial sanctions.

The University submitted a proposal to the U. G. C. which involved an outlay of Rs. 75.00 lakhs spread over a period of four years. This was considered by the Commission in its meeting held on 26-3-1993 and it was resolved that seed money may be provided to the University for preparing a feasibility report in the first instance.

U. G. C. has informed that this decision has been conveyed to the AMU which is expected to send the requirements of seed money to the Commission for consideration for release of grants. According to AMU, the work of the project will be taken up after the grants are received.

Indian Students in Uzbekistan and Kazakistan

1630. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian students studying in Uzbekistan and Kazakistan are facing a lot of hardships and problem after breakup of U. S. S. R.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian Students have given some memorandum to the Prime Minister during his recent visit to these countries;

(d) if so, the details of such memorandum; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) Following the dissolution of the former Soviet Union, Indian students admitted in educational institutions under different non-Governmental schemes have been facing difficulties in some of the independent Republics including Uzbekistan. The problem mainly relates to an increase in fees and payment of fees etc. in hard currency.

(c) and (d) Indian Scholars Association in Tashkent gave a memorandum to the Prime Minister, during his visit to that country in May, 1993, suggesting certain measures. The thrust of the memorandum was to urge the Uzbekistan Government to honour the commitment under which the students got admissions in educational institutions there. There is no such representation from Kazakistan.

(e) At the intervention of Government of India, the Govt. of Uzbekistan have substantially reduced the annual tuition fees, and Reserve Bank of India has also extended facilities for Indian students in Uzbekistan to avail of bank loans for payment of their fees.

Translation Work in Sahitya Academy

1631. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the pace of translation work in the Sahitya Academy is at low level;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to boost it?